

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BELGRA 03311 241841Z

ACTION EUR-12

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R 240906Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 748

S E C R E T BELGRADE 3311

STADIS//////////

FROM CHARGE'

EO 11652 XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR YO
SUBJ: OBSERVATIONS ON YUGOSLAV LEADERS

1. I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO RECORD A FEW OF MY PERSONAL AND NOT VERY PROFOUND OBSERVATIONS ON RELATIONSHIP AMONG THE FIVE TOP YUGOSLAV LEADERS WHO SAT IN ON MAY 21ST MEETING AND ATTENDED LUNCH IN HONOR OF VP MONDALE.

2. TITO SEEMED IN EXCELLENT HEALTH AND REMARKABLY ACUTE MENTALLY FOR A MAN APPROACHING HIS 85TH BIRTHDAY. HE WAS VERY MUCH THE MASTER AND THE YUGOSLAVS AROUND HIM WERE DEFERENTIAL ALMOST TO THE POINT OF SERVILITY. ALL EXCEPT KARDELJ, THAT IS. WITH KARDELJ, TITO HAD A COLLEGIAL RELATIONSHIP AND ONE THAT SUGGESTED DISTINCT PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP. KARDELJ PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY IN THE CONVERSATIONS AND DID NOT HESITATE TO INTERVENE WHEN HE HAD SOMETHING TO SAY. AT TIMES IT WAS HARD FOR ME TO TELL WHEN TITO STOPPED TALKING AND KARDELJ BEGAN, PARTICULARLY AT LUNCH.

3. MINIC WAS VERY MUCH THE DEFERENTIAL SUBORDINATE. AT ONE POINT HE INTERVENED TO REMIND TITO THAT HE
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HAD FORGOTTEN TO MENTION NAMIBIA, WHEN TITO WAS DISCUSSING AFRICAN HOT SPOTS OF CONFLICT. ON BOTH OF HIS OTHER INTERVENTIONS MINIC FIRST ASKED TITO'S PERMISSION TO SPEAK, USING THE FORMAL, POLITE FORM TO ADDRESS THE PRESIDENT. TITO ALLOWED MINIC TO MAKE HIS POINT, BUT DID NOT ENCOURAGE HIM TO ELABORATE ON IT. NOR DID THERE SEEM TO BE MUCH PERSONAL WARMTH BETWEEN THE TWO.

4. DORONJSKI HAD THE TEMERITY AT ONE POINT TO BREAK IN WHEN KARDELJ WAS MAKING A POINT ABOUT MILITARY SALES. TITO WAS CURT WITH HIM ALMOST TO THE POINT OF RUDENESS. THAT SHUT HIM UP FOR THE REST OF THE MEETING, WHICH NO DOUBT CONTRIBUTED TO ITS SUCCESS.

5. PRIME MINISTER DJURANOVIC WAS SILENT THROUGHOUT. I DID NOT OBSERVE AN EXCHANGE OF ANY KIND BETWEEN HIM AND TITO. MUCH OF THE TIME, DJURANOVIC HAD A BEMUSED EXPRESSION, AS IF ASKING HIMSELF WHAT HE WAS DOING IN SUCH HIGH-POWERED COMPANY.

YORK

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NNN

Message Attributes

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